

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of sterilising one or more radioactive seeds, which method comprises subjecting the radioactive seeds to dry heat at a temperature of at least 140 °C for a time sufficient to effect sterilisation, and subsequently cooling the radioactive seeds.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the temperature is 150 to 200 °C
3. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claims 1 or 2~~claim 1, wherein the temperature is at least 160 °C.
4. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein the radioactive seeds are loose.
5. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein the radioactive seeds are in a closed container.
6. (Cancel)
7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5 ~~or claim 6~~, wherein the closed container carries, during sterilisation, a label or marker indicating the contents of the closed container.
8. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein a plurality of containers of radioactive seeds, comprising the same or different numbers of radioactive seeds, are sterilised together.

9. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1, wherein the radioactive seeds comprise ^{125}I -radioiodine or ^{103}Pd -palladium.
10. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1, wherein the radioactive seeds are free of moisture.
11. (Cancel)
12. (Currently amended) A product comprising one or more sterilized radioactive seeds ~~in a sterile condition~~, wherein the seeds are sterilised by the dry heat sterilisation process of ~~claims 1 to 11~~claim 1.
13. (Original) The product of claim 12, where the radioactive seeds are in a closed container.
14. (Currently amended) A product comprising a closed container containing one or more sterilized radioactive seeds ~~in a sterile condition~~, wherein the radioactive seeds are free of moisture and of chemical residues characteristic of chemical sterilisation, and wherein the product is free of degradation characteristic of sterilisation by gamma irradiation.
15. (Currently amended) The product of ~~claims 12 to 14~~claim 12, wherein the closed container carries a marker or label giving details of the contents.
16. (Cancel)
17. (Cancel)
18. (Currently amended) The product of ~~any one of claims 12 to 17~~claim 12, wherein the dose distribution of each radioactive seed is substantially isotropic.

Please amend claim 19 as follows:

19. (Currently amended) The product of ~~any one of claims 12 to 18~~claim 12 wherein the radioactive seeds comprise ^{125}I -radioiodine or ^{103}Pd -palladium.
20. (Cancel).